

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08
FAA-00 /059 W
-----121543 180843Z /12
O 180802Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7701

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 5886

FOL TEL SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD AND LAHORE FROM KARACHI
DATED JUNE 18 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 2946

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PORS, PK
SUBJECT: CLASH AT AIRPORT

1. YOU WILL HAVE READ IN THE JUNE 18 PRESS ABOUT
THE CLASH BETWEEN THE AIRPORT SECURITY FORCE AND
THE PIA PERSONNEL THAT BROUGHT THE AIRPORT TO A
STADSTILL FOR TWELVE HOURS ON JUNE 17. ACCORDING
TO THE PRESS, WHAT STARTED OFF AS A PETTY QUARREL
DEVELOPED INTO A FREE FOR ALL IN WHICH FIREARMS WERE
USED. THIRTEEN HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED, ONE OF THEM
SERIOUSLY INJURED. THE FIGHT WAS FINALLY BROUGHT
UNDER CONTROL BY THE ARMY WHICH FOR THE TIME BEING
HAS DISARMED THE AIRPORT SECURITY FORCE.

2. COMMENT: CLASHES BETWEEN THE AIRPORT SECURITY
FORCE AND PIA PERSONNEL -- USUALLY THE BAGGAE
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HANDLERS HAVE OCCURRED BEFORE ON MUCH SMALLER SCALES,
AND THEY HAVE BEEN KEPT QUIET. PART OF THE PRBLEM
IS THAT THE LOWER RANKING MEMBERS OF THE
SECURITY FORCE ARE UNEDUCATED, FAIRLY NEW TO
THEIR JOBS, AND SOMEWHAT IMPRESSED BY THEIR
AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY. THE BAGGAE HANDLERS
ARE A BREED OF THEIR OWN AND RESENT WHAT THEY

CONSIDER "BEING SHOVED AROUND."

3. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THERE HAS BEEN SOME COMPETITION BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCE AND THE ARMY. THAT IS, THE ARMY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF PIA IS PRESENTLY TRAINING COMMANDO GROUPS FOR ANTI-HIJACKING OPERATIONS, A FUNCTION WHICH THE SECURITY FORCE BELIEVES TO BE THEIRS. IN THE LIGHT OF THE JUNE 17 EPISODE, THE ARMY HAS TAKEN OVER CONTROL OF SECURITY AND PROHIBITED THE CARRYING OF ARMS BY ANY OTHER PERSONNEL, BUT THE SECURITY FORCE REMAINS ON DUTY FOR PASSENGER/BACKAGE CHECKING.

4. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NONE OF OUR PERSONNEL OR OTHER AMERICANS WERE AT THE AIRPORT DURING THE MELEE.
MOORE
UNQUOTE
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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